

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (presently amended): A buffer memory for storing a plurality of digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective first users in an order established by said first users, wherein:

each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of second users,

each of said digital information blocks includes an indicia of the priority one of said users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks, and

one of said second users elects to receive a user-selected one of said digital information blocks responsive to said indicia of a respective digital information block.

Claim 2 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein:

said digital information blocks are electronic medical images; and

said indicia is a bid price offered by said first users to said second users.

Claim 3 (presently amended): The buffer memory ~~is~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein any one of said first users can freely change a respective indicia of the associated one of said digital information blocks.

Claims 4-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein the indicia is an ask price.

Claim 10 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein the ask price is suggested by a respective one of the second users.

Claims 11-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (presently amended): A system for transmitting, storing, retransmitting and receiving a plurality of work order packages, each containing a work order summary having an indicia of the priority attached to one of the work order packages by a respective requester and a work order, the system comprising:

a first computer system including:

- a first memory storing a first software module containing first operating instructions readable by the first computer system;
- an input device for generating at least one of the work order packages and for changing one of the indicia in the respective one of the work order packages generated by the respective requester; and
- a first display for monitoring all of the work order packages;

a first communications channel receiving any of the work order packages generated by the first computer system;

a second computer system receiving the at least one of the work order packages from the first communications channel and parsing received work order packages into their respective work order summaries and work orders, the second computer system including:

- a second memory storing a second software module containing second operating instructions readable by the second computer system;
- a first storage memory for storing the work order summaries linked to the respective work orders in a predetermined order based on the indicia in the respective work order packages; and
- a second storage memory for storing the respective work orders;

a second communications channel for receiving the respective work order summaries and a user-selected one of the work orders from the summary storage memory and the bulk storage memory, respectively; and

a third computer system for selecting the user-selected one of the respective work orders based on the work order summaries and for receiving the user-selected one of the work orders, the third computer comprising:

- a third memory storing a third software module containing third operation instructions readable by the third computer; and
- a second display for displaying any of the work order summaries and the selected one of the work orders;

wherein the second computer system, under control of the second operating instructions, reorders all of the stored work order summaries responsive to any change in the indicia of the work order packages generated by the respective requester.

Claim 30 (original): The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the second communications channel comprises:

a low speed communications channel for instructing the second computer system to download and of the work order summaries to the third computer system; and

a high speed communications channel for downloading the selected one of the work orders from the second computer system to the third computer system.

Claim 31 (previously amended): The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the third computer system comprises a plurality of third computers, and wherein the first

storage memory comprises a first memory queue accessible by all of the third computers and a plurality of second memory queues, each of the second memory queues being accessible by only a selected one of the third computers.

Claim 32 (original): The system as recited in claim 31, wherein a one-to-one correspondence between the partitions and a subset of the third computers is established by respective passwords.

Claims 33-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (previously amended): A remote access system for purchasing services, comprising:

- a first facility for storing work order packages, each work order package generated by a respective originator and including a work order and an associated work order summary in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible work order database comprised of the stored work order packages;

- a plurality of second facilities remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a pool of participating service providers with access to the work order database; and

- means for facilitating interactive bidding by the originators of the work order packages and service providers regarding fees to be charged by the participating service providers for the services requested in the work order packages,

- whereby the system functions as an open electronic marketplace for the distribution of services to the originators, and

wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable any one or more of the service providers to select and extract one or more of the work orders from the work order database in accordance with selection criteria established by the service providers and the work order package originators.

Claims 36-38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (previously amended): A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

the digital information blocks are disposed in an order established by all of the users;

each of the digital information blocks is represented in the GUI by graphic indicators;

each of the digital information blocks includes an indicia of priority that one of the users attaches to an associated one of the digital information blocks; and

all of the digital information blocks are freely selectable by at least one of the respective users.

Claim 40 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the indicia of priority is a bid price.

Claim 41 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the indicia of priority is an ask price.

Claim 42 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are characters identifying a respective one of the digital information blocks.

Claim 43 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 42, wherein statistical measures regarding the indicia of priority are displayed for all users on the GUI.

Claim 44 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically.

Claim 45-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein user-specific statistical measures corresponding to the indicia of priority established by a respective one of the users is presented by the GUI for only that respective one of the users.

Claim 49 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein a total number of users viewing the GUI is enumerated and displayed by the GUI.

Claim 50 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein a total number of transactions executed over a specified time period is displayed by the GUI.

Claim 51 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are hash marks, each hash mark being directly associated to a respective digital information block.

Claim 52 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are ordered in queues, each indicator in a queue having the same indicia of priority.

Claim 53 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein within a given queue, the graphic indicators are ordered according to the time they were received.

Claim 54 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein within a given queue, the graphic indicators are, in addition, ordered according to additional information contained in the digital information blocks.

Claim 55 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

Claim 56 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicator generated by a respective user is "highlighted" when the user opens the GUI.

Claim 57 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein:

substantially all of the GUI is visible to all users; and

the GUI presents user-specific information on to the user generating a respective one of the digital information blocks.

Claim 58 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are Document Control Numbers.

Claim 59 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are file names.

Claim 60 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

Claim 61 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are reordered as digital information blocks are added and removed.

Claim 62 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the user can change the indicia of priority of the associated digital information block.

Claim 63 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the user can remove a respective digital information block.

Claim 64 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

Claim 65-69 (canceled)

Claim 70 (presently amended): A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services between buyers and sellers, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

the GUI employs graphic indicators to represent offers between the buyers and the sellers;

the GUI displays a set of first graphic indicators representing offers to buy, the offers being generated by a plurality of first users, in an order established by the first users, each of the offers having an associated bid price; and

the GUI displays a set of second graphic indicators representing offers to sell, the offers being generated by a plurality of second users, in an order established by the second users, each of the offers having an associated ask price[[.]];

~~whereby~~ the GUI displays the graphic indicators for all offers to buy and sell and is configured to ~~thereby~~ permit all of the users to visualize the marketplace, ~~and to thereby permit~~ any buyer to select any offer to sell, and any seller to select any offer to buy.

Claim 71 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators correspond to one of the bid price and the ask price.

Claim 72 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 71, wherein the graphic indicators further comprise information extracted from the digital information blocks.

Claim 73 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 72, wherein the information extracted from the digital information blocks further defines the one of the bid price and the ask price.

Claim 74 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the GUI presents statistical information corresponding to at least one of all bid prices and all ask prices.

Claim 75 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 74, wherein the statistical information is represented graphically.

Claim 76 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 74, wherein the graphically represented statistical information includes a symbol identifying one of the bid price and the ask price for each respective one of the first and the second users.

Claim 77 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 76, wherein the GUI displays the graphically represented statistical information and arithmetic calculations based on the statistical information.

Claim 78 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein a selected one of the arithmetic calculations is presented only to a corresponding one of the first and second users.

Claim 79 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the total number of the first and second users viewing the GUI is presented by the GUI.

Claim 80 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the total number of transactions executed during a predetermined period time is presented by the GUI.

Claim 81 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are hash marks, each hash mark being directly associated to a respective digital information block.

Claim 82 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are ordered in queues, each indicator in a queue having the same bid price or ask price.

Claim 83 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein, within a given one of the queues, the graphic indicators are ordered according to the time they were received.

Claim 84 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein, within a given one of the queues, the graphic indicators are sorted based on information extracted from the respective digital information blocks.

Claim 85 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

Claim 86 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicator generated by a respective one of the first and second users is identified to that user when the GUI is opened.

Claim 87 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are Document Control Numbers.

Claim 88 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are file names.

Claim 89 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

Claim 90 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are reordered as digital information blocks are added and removed.

Claim 91 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein one of the first and second users can change the indicia of priority of the associated digital information block.

Claim 92 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein one of the first and second users can remove the associated digital information block.

Claim 93 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

Claim 94-102 (canceled)

Claim 103 (presently amended): A buffer memory operated by a first user for storing a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective second users in an order freely established by the second users, wherein:

each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of third users;

each of the links includes an indicia of the priority a respective one of the second users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks; and

each of the third users is presented with a link list ordered responsive to the indicia associated with the links stored in the buffer memory and ~~permitted~~ which link list is configured to permit the user to select any of the links.

Claim 104 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 103, wherein each of:

the digital information blocks comprises at least one electronic file controlled by a respective one of the second users; and

the indicia comprises a bid price offered by the respective second user, which bid price is payable when one of the third users follows that link to the at least one electronic file.

Claim 105 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 104, wherein the at least one electronic file comprises an electronic medical image.

Claim 106 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 103, wherein a respective second user can freely change a respective indicia of the link associated one of said digital information blocks.

Claim 107 (presently amended): A storage medium for storing computer readable instructions for permitting a respective computer to generate a graphical user interface (GUI) providing a listing of N electronic information blocks arranged in an order established by all of the M second users, the GUI being viewable by at least one of a plurality of third users and the GUI ~~permitting~~ configured to permit any of the third users to select any of the N electronic information blocks, wherein:

each of the N electronic information blocks has an associated indicia established by a respective one of M second users; and

N and M are positive integers greater than 1.

Claim 108 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the GUI permits any one of the third users to retrieve a freely selected one of the N electronic information blocks.

Claim 109 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein N is equal to M.

Claim 110 (original): The storage medium as recited in 107, wherein the listing identifies a respective storage location for each of the N electronic information blocks.

Claim 111 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein all of the indicia associated with the N electronic information blocks are viewable by the third users.

Claim 112 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein each of the N electronic information blocks comprises a respective electronic medical image.

Claim 113 (presently amended): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the indicia assigned by an Mth second user to an Nth electronic information block permits the Mth second user to control the ~~relative~~ ³ position of the Nth electronic information block relative to the N-1 other electronic information blocks ~~[[4]]~~ included in the listing provided by the GUI.

Claim 114-115 (canceled)